

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 4-5, 10-11, and 17-18 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16, and 19-20 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests allowance of claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16, and 19-20.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,318,479 (Lawroski). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 14 require a shaft including a normal belt position portion adapted for receiving a belt and a reduced diameter portion formed on the shaft and located adjacent to the normal belt position portion. Independent claim 8 requires a shaft including a normal belt position portion adapted for receiving a belt, a first angled portion, a second angled portion, and a neck region formed between the first angled portion and the second angled portion. Advantageously, the claims may be implemented in some embodiments where the belt can move into the reduced diameter portion of the power shaft during operation and the reduced diameter portion creates an alignment tension force on the belt that operates to return the belt to the normal belt position portion.

Lawroski does not disclose a belt retaining geometry on a power shaft. In contrast, Lawroski discloses a pulley 40 including a belt groove 42 (see FIG. 1A and see col. 2, lines 30-33).

Lawroski does not teach or suggest a normal belt position portion in combination with a reduced diameter portion adjacent to the normal belt position portion. Lawroski only shows the circular belt groove 42. The portions of the pulley 40 on either side of the groove 42 are completely flat. A belt 50 in Lawroski rides in the belt groove 42 (see col. 2, lines 42-45). The belt groove 42 in Lawroski is the normal belt position portion.

Lawroski does not disclose a first angled portion, a second angled portion, and a neck region formed between the first angled portion and the second angled portion. Lawroski does not even teach or suggest angled portions. In contrast, the belt groove 42 of Lawroski is circular and is designed for a circular cross-section belt 50. Lawroski does not teach or suggest flat, angled portions or faces. If the circular belt 50 of Lawroski

moves out of a normal position, *i.e.*, if it moves out of the groove 42, then there is no device or mechanism that will perform a returning action to the normal position.

The circular belt 50 of Lawroski is not designed to interact with a first or second angled portion and would not satisfactorily interact with an angled portion. The belt groove 42 of Lawroski is not designed to create an alignment tension force on the circular belt 50.

The Office Action asserts that FIG. 1A of Lawroski shows first and second angled portions and a middle portion. The Office Action further asserts that "Lawroski fails to disclose the shape of the belt groove" and implies that the groove of Lawroski is not circular. This is plainly incorrect, and is clearly refuted by FIG. 1A. The belt cross-sectional shape is drawn as being circular. The groove is drawn as being circular. The groove does not include "angled" sides, as it has curved sides.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 14 therefore include features that are neither taught nor suggested by Lawroski. Claims 2-3, 9, 12-13, 15-16, and 19-20 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1, 8, and 14.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-16, and 19-20. Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

Date:

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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